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WORLD HORSE NUMBERS AND WORK STOCK IN EUROPE FOR 1945 AND 1946

World horse numbers in 1946 totaled 75.2 million head, according to the best available data. This was below the 1934-38 average by 19.5 million head or 21 percent. The decline in horse numbers during the 1938-46 period can be attributed chiefly to mechanization of agriculture in certain areas and wartime losses in the war devastated areas. Further mechanization, chiefly in North America, and not much restoration of horses in Europe during the first post war year left world horse numbers in 1946 slightly below 1945.

HORSES: Estimated world numbers, by continents,
average 1934-38, annual 1945 and 1946

Continent or Area	: Average		: 1945		: 1946	
	: 1934-38		: Thousands		: Thousands	
North America	:	18,600	:	15,600	:	14,700
Europe	:	22,900	:	18,000	:	17,900
Soviet Union	:	15,600	:	7,600	:	8,000
Asia	:	14,700	:	11,900	:	12,100
South America	:	17,700	:	17,600	:	17,800
Africa	:	3,100	:	3,200	:	3,200
Oceania	:	2,100	:	1,600	:	1,500
Total	:	94,700	:	75,500	:	75,200

a/ Preliminary
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

The largest decline from prewar occurred in the Soviet Union and in Europe where numbers in 1946 were below the 1934-38 average by 49 percent and 21 percent, respectively.

In 1946, the Soviet Union, based on prewar boundaries, had about 10 percent of the world horses, compared with 16 percent in 1934-38. Europe still retains 24 percent of the world numbers, and remains in the same position as in 1934-38.

Horse numbers in Western Europe are higher than prewar, except in France and the United Kingdom. In France, heavy German requisitions and direct war losses account for a significant wartime decline. Greatly increased tractor numbers in the United Kingdom made it possible to reduce horse numbers by one-fifth during the war.

HORSES: Number in specified countries,
average 1934-1938, annual 1945 and 1946

Continent and Country	Month of	Average 1934-38	1945	1946	b/
	Estimate	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	
<u>North America</u>					
Canada	June 1	2,864	2,585	2,397	
Mexico	June 30	c/	2,199	-	-
United States	Jan. 1	11,570	8,715	8,053	
Cuba	Dec. 31 a/	582	283	-	
Estimated total		18,600	15,600	14,700	
<u>Europe</u>					
Albania		64	54	52	
Austria	Dec. 31 a/	d/e/	261	240	264
Belgium	Jan. 1	a/	245	278	297
Bulgaria	Dec. 31 a/	e/	532	f/	468
Czechoslovakia	Dec. 31 a/		695	607	674
Denmark	July 15		553	644	651
Eire	June		429	465	452
Estonia	June		215	-	-
Finland	Mar. 1	g/	372	385	381
France	Fall a/		2,808	2,138	2,257
Germany	Dec. 1 a/		3,398	3,232	h/
Greece	Dec. 31 a/		356	194	199
Hungary	Spring		803	329	401
Italy	July	d/i/	801	620	580
Latvia	June		386	-	-
Lithuania	Dec. 31 a/		555	-	-
Netherlands	May		293	346	355
Norway	June 20		186	220	238
Poland	June 30		3,831	-	j/
Portugal	Dec. 31 a/	e/	90	-	-
Rumania	Dec. 31 a/	i/	2,086	-	-
Spain	Dec. 31 a/	e/	808	-	554
Sweden	Summer		615	599	593
Switzerland	April	e/	140	149	152
United Kingdom	June		1,107	880	850
Yugoslavia	Dec. 31 a/		1,212	-	-
Estimated total		22,900	18,000	17,900	
<u>Soviet Union</u>	Jan. 1	15,600	7,600:k/	8,000	
<u>Asia</u>					
Iraq		e/	150	173	198
Syria and Lebanon	Dec. 31 a/		66	90	111
Turkey 1/	Dec. 31 a/		619	730	748
China (22 provinces)	May	i/	3,711	-	2,055
India	Dec. 31 a/		2,366	-	2,200
Japan proper	Dec. 31 a/		1,330	-	1,254
Estimated total		14,700	11,900	12,100	

Continued -

HORSES: Number in specified countries,
average 1934-1938, annual 1945 and 1946

Continent and Country	Month of Estimate	a/	Average 1934-38	1945	1946 b/
			Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<u>South America</u>					
Argentina	July 1	:i/	8,290	7,473	7,500
Brazil	Sept.	:i/	6,149	-	-
Chile	June	:i/	489	-	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 a/	:i/	941	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 a/	:i/	229	300	-
Peru		:e/	400	-	-
Uruguay	April	:e/	644	-	-
Estimated total			17,700	17,600	17,800
<u>Africa</u>					
Algeria	Mar. 1		178	-	-
Ethiopia m/		:e/	1,180	-	-
French Morocco l/	Dec. 31 a/		216	231	199
Tunisia	Dec. 31 a/		108	99	102
Union of South Africa	August	:e/	778	-	-
Estimated total			3,100	3,200	3,200
<u>Oceania</u>					
Australia	Mar. 1	:a/	1,761	1,359	1,265
New Zealand	Jan. 31		276	231	229
Estimated total			2,100	1,600	1,500
Estimated World Total			94,700	75,500	75,200

a/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus, for Austria the December 3, 1944 estimate of 240,000 is shown under 1945. b/ Preliminary. c/ Average of 1930 and 1940 censuses. d/ March. e/ Census or estimate for single year.

f/ Includes Southern Dobrudja. g/ September. h/ The number of horses in the 4 zones of occupation in Germany totaled 2,204,000 head in 1946, compared with 2,394,000 on December 1, 1938. i/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. j/ The number of horses in Poland, in terms of present boundaries, totaled 1,811,000 head in 1946, compared with 3,149,000 head in 1938.

k/ The number of horses in the Soviet Union, in terms of present boundaries, totaled 10,508,000 head in 1946, compared with 19,600,000 head in 1938.

l/ Number taxed only. m/ Includes mules and asses.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, United States Foreign Service Reports, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

WORK STOCK: Numbers in specified European Countries,
prewar average, annual 1945 and 1946

Countries	Month ^{b/} of Estimate	Horses, Work ^{b/}		Mules and Asses		Oxen and Work Cows		Water Buffaloes		
		Prewar ^{c/} Average	1945	Prewar ^{c/} Average	1946 ^{d/}	Prewar ^{c/} Average	1945	Prewar ^{c/} Average	1946 ^{d/}	
		Thousands								
Albania	Dec. 3 ^{a/}	64 ^{e/}	54 ^{e/}	52	73	55	58	£/	£/	13
Austria	Dec. 3 ^{a/}	224 ^{e/}	202 ^{e/}	221	11	3	242	£/	181	22
Belgium	Jan. 1 ^{a/}	164 ^{e/}	156 ^{e/}	172 ^{e/}	12	4	12	-	-	-
Bulgaria ^{1/}	Dec. 31 ^{a/}	412 ^{e/}	392 ^{e/}	384 ^{e/}	218	160	163	£/	955	375
Czechoslovakia	Dec. 31 ^{a/}	599 ^{e/}	500	500	1	1	2	£/	£/	264
Denmark	July	425	418	429	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	June	327	357	355	168	139	137	-	-	-
Estonia	June	172	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	Mar. 1	318	302	307	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	Fall ^{b/}	2,314	1,595	1,747	331	180	186 ^{e/}	£/	£/1,045; £/1,075;	-
Germany	Dec. 1 ^{a/}	2,667	-	-	10	-	2,495	-	-	-
Greece	Dec. 31 ^{a/}	180	-	110	567	381	404	£/	483	236:
Hungary	Spring	714	-	225	-	5	5	£/	174	114:
Italy	July 1 ^{b/}	831	-	-	1,370	809	790	£/	109	7:
Latvia	June	338	-	-	-	-	-	£/	£/	15:
Lithuania	Dec. 31 ^{a/}	442	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	May	231	190	186	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	June	156	-	184	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poland and Danzig	June	3,333	-	-	-	-	-	£/	£/	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 ^{a/}	71	-	-	397	-	-	£/	£/	-
Romania	Dec. 31 ^{a/}	1,781	-	-	117	-	-	£/	£/	173:
Spain	Dec. 31 ^{a/}	466	-	495	2,190	-	1,969 ^{e/}	£/	697	-
Sweden	Summer ^{b/}	519	493	96	99	4	3	£/	£/	-
Switzerland	April	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	June	763	-	-	7	7	6	£/	£/	-
Yugoslavia	Dec. 31 ^{a/}	1,017	-	-	139	-	-	£/	£/	37:
Soviet Union	Jan. 1	11,780	-	-	-	-	3,010	-	-	-

^{b/}End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. ^{c/}Estimates for Austria the December 3, 1944, estimate of 202,000 is shown under 1945. ^{d/}Horses 3 years of age and over. ^{e/}Averages for years 1934-1938, or years available in that period. ^{a/}Preliminary. ^{g/}Total number of horses; classification by age groups unavailable. ^{f/}Oxen, and to some extent cows, are of importance as a source of draft power, but statistics are unavailable. ^{h/}Horses 2 years of age and over. ^{i/}Estimates for 1945 and 1946 include Southern Dobrudja. ^{j/}September. ^{k/}Excludes work cows, for which statistics are unavailable. ^{l/}Census, March 19, 1930. ^{m/}Horses 4 years of age and over. ^{n/}May 1933. Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, United States Foreign Service Reports, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.

Except for the Soviet Zone of Germany, horse numbers in Central Europe did not fall off materially because of the war. In Eastern Europe, including Hungary and the Balkans and in Italy, however, horse numbers declined considerably during and immediately following the war.

In North America where mechanization has been the greatest, the number of horses declined 21 percent. That continent still had about 20 percent of the horses in the world, the same as in the 1934-38 period. However, it is significant that during the period, agricultural production in this area, particularly in Canada and the U. S., was much greater than in any other period.

In Oceania, or more specifically, in Australia and New Zealand, the 1946 situation with respect to horse numbers is somewhat similar to that of the United States and Canada in that the Southern Dominions account for nearly the same percentage they held in 1934-38. The decrease in horse numbers in the Southern Dominion countries, however, has been even greater than in the principal North American countries in that the numbers declined 30 percent from the 1934-38 level. This may indicate even greater mechanization and efficiency in agricultural production of those countries.

Although world numbers decreased by more than one-fifth, during the 1938-46 period, the South American continent continued to maintain its horse numbers and now has about 24 percent of the world total, compared with 19 percent in 1934-38. Minor increases were evident in Africa. Asia, on the other hand, retained its position with relation to world numbers, but experienced a drop of 18 percent in numbers from the 1934-38 level.

Work Stock Numbers in Specified European Countries

As total horse numbers in the preceding section do not indicate the numbers available for work, a supplementary compilation of horses of work age (3 years or more), is given for European countries. In addition to horses, mules and asses, oxen, work cows and water buffaloes are an important part of the work stock, especially in Central, Southern and Southeastern Europe. Such work stock was depleted in several countries during the war, and early reestablishment will have an important bearing on rehabilitation of European agriculture. At the present time, and particularly during the reconstruction period, no other factor of production is of greater importance to agriculture. It is apparent that mechanization can not be expected to effectively contribute very much to the farm power situation in Europe for a considerable time because of the lack of foreign exchange in most countries, and unavailability of tractors and tractor parts. Furthermore, the small size of farms in many of the countries prevents extensive mechanization.

Data from a group of European countries for which 1946 preliminary information is available, indicate a 5 percent increase in work stock over 1945. The 1946 figures also indicate that a 31 percent decline occurred in the number of draft animals between the prewar period and 1946, as a result of war losses to indigenous work stock. In some areas in Europe, especially in the South and Southeast, prewar work stock numbers were above the level of essential requirements. The war time decline has been partly compensated for by more complete utilization of the remaining work stock.

In 1946, work stock numbers in France showed a slight increase over 1945 for all types, but were actually 18 percent below the prewar levels. Although work horses, mules and asses decreased in number, draft oxen showed an increase of 3 percent. Cows are also used in France as work stock, but no recent data are available on the number so utilized. Total cattle numbers now approach prewar.

Switzerland, a neutral country and the only one in this particular group which did not suffer from the ravages of war, showed an overall drop in work stock numbers of 14 percent from the prewar level. Almost the entire decrease occurred in work horses. In Greece, 1946 work stock showed a slight increase over 1945, but the total number of work stock is almost 40 percent below the prewar level. The greatest decrease occurred in draft oxen and cows with considerable falling off in all types of work stock.

The total work stock in Austria in 1946 fell below 1945 numbers by about 9 percent and are now 13 percent below prewar. Although work horse numbers declined, the number of mules and asses increased to nearly offset the decrease in work horses. Almost the entire work stock decline, however, occurred in draft oxen and cattle which possibly was due to reparations and slaughter and to lack of replacements of old oxen.

In Bulgaria, the work stock in 1946 were, about one-third fewer than prewar, but showed a slight increase over 1945 in all types except work horses. Following the war a considerable number of work horses were included in reparations payments. Hungarian work stock in 1946 showed a decline of over 60 percent from prewar and only a minor increase in draft animals over 1945. Work horses and draft oxen and cows declined about 66 and 34 percent, respectively, from prewar levels. No change occurred in the number of mules and asses, but a decrease occurred in water buffalo numbers, as a result of the 1945 drought which reduced forage supplies.

This is a non-scheduled report on world agricultural production, approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Livestock Statistics. For this report the committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C. M. Purves, F. E. Davis, Elmer A. Reese, Hazel B. Kefauver, Lazar Volin and Lois P. Bacon.

